

EARLY STAGES OF SPILOSOMA LATIPENNIS.

BY CAROLINE G. SOULE, BROOKLINE, MASS.

The eggs, which were received from Miss Morton, were laid June 9th and 10th, 1893. They were very small, hemispherical, pale yellow-white, and were laid in an irregular mat. the flat side on the paper.

June 18th.—The eggs grew lead-colored; then two dark lines and three pinkish dots showed in each egg, and just before 9 P. M. the young larvae hatched. The larvae were a trifle over 1-16 inch long, sparsely covered with long blackish hairs, and were of a pale yellow color until they grew green with food. There was a dark spot on each side of the face, and the mouth-parts were pinkish. There were three rows of dark warts on the dorsum, and a dark spot on eleventh segment. The larvae were sluggish, and ate little except their egg-shells which were entirely eaten. *Plantago major* was supplied.

June 22nd.—The larvae spun little mats on the tin and remained motionless, looking thick and dull.

June 23rd.—First moult. The larvae were 3-16 inch long, yellower than before, and had a glassy green look after eating. The feet and props were transparent, pale yellow. There were no dark warts or marks, except the face-marks and mouth-parts as before. The hairs were black on the dorsum, white elsewhere.

June 27th.—They became quiet again, after eating better in this stage.

June 28th.—Second moult. Length $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; yellow and transparent, till green with food. Not as glassy as before. Hairs longer, and a little denser. No other changes.

July 2nd.—Became quiet.

July 3rd.—Third moult. Length $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. General effect hairy and gray. Head yellow with dark face-marks and mouth-parts as before. Feet and props pale yellow. Body

green with food, a broken subdorsal and lateral line of gray dots on each side. Warts very pale yellow, with a large bright yellow one on each side of eleventh segment, just below the dorsal line. Face-marks less noticeable. Hairs longer, especially over the head and on eleventh segment, and with more dark ones. During this stage the larvae ate more, but were still very sluggish.

July 7th.—Became quiet.

July 8th.—Fourth moult. Length one inch in most cases. Head and feet pale yellow. Props gray with pale yellow tips. Mouth-parts pinkish brown. Body gray with darker subdorsal and lateral lines. Warts on eleventh segment pale yellow and conspicuous, elsewhere gray. Hairs almost all gray, with a few white ones over the two ends. The general effect was very hairy and maltese gray. In this stage the larvae were less sluggish, moving very rapidly, and ate more. Like the other "hairy caterpillars" they curled up when touched or shaken from the leaf.

July 11th.—They became quiet.

July 12th.—Fifth moult. Length $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Head and feet pale yellow. Props gray with yellow tips. Body dark gray. Hairs chiefly tan-colored, with a few long black ones. No light warts. Spiracles white and noticeable for the first time, those on eleventh segment being largest.

July 15th.—Became quiet.

July 17th.—Sixth moult. Length $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches for the largest ones. Head clear yellow-brown, horny-looking, with dark brown upper half. Median suture deep. Feet clear yellow-brown. Props dark brown with putty-colored tips. Body velvety dark brown, almost black. Hairs dark tan for the lower third, black the rest of their length. Spiracles very conspicuous, white, largest on eleventh segment. General look — blackish-

tan. In this stage the larvae were most active, moving very rapidly. The general appearance was like very fine Russian sable! At this time three were one moult behind the first ones, and three were two moults behind.

July 28th.—The first ones spun their cocoons between leaves, or lay quiet under

leaves, without spinning.

July 31st.—Pupae cast the larval skin. Length of pupa 5-16 inch, stout, black, with the segments punctate and having well-defined ridges. Spiracles bright orange. Anal end with several sharp points. Eyes and antennae well defined, wing cases short.

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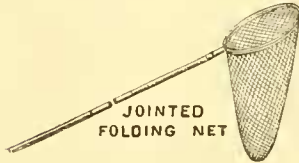
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